

Can We Talk?

Who are we? Despite our long history as a gay and lesbian synagogue, Sha'ar Zahav is still a young congregation. Our traditions—our *halacha*—are still evolving. Sometimes our leadership faces issues which it feels require a forum for general congregational discussion before making a final decision. Many of these issues are handled at our semi-annual Congregational Meetings. Others, like the recently formulated Kashrut Policy, are publicized in *The Forward*, and comment is invited. There are currently some issues before the Va'ad and various committees that invite this sort of general input from the congregation.

For this purpose, an afternoon of discussion—a Shabbaton—will be held after our Shabbat Morning Service on January 26. Kiddush, of course, will follow the service, but bring a bag lunch and stay for the afternoon (coffee and soft drinks

will be available)—or come directly to the Shabbaton, which will begin at noon and end by 4 p.m.

The discussion will focus on three subjects:

- Charging for events and programs—what are the benefits of membership and what distinctions should be made between members and non-members.
- Who gets to vote? What does a family membership mean as far as voting rights? This is currently an issue being examined by the Bylaw Review Committee for possible Bylaw amendment at the May Congregational Meeting.
- A review of proposed renovations to the building, especially the second floor. How can we best utilize that space, and at what renovation cost?

Susan Coleson, the facilitator during this past summer's leadership "Advance," will help us through our talks. All members are encouraged to attend. Although no formal votes will be taken at the Shabbaton, it should be a productive exchange of ideas which will guide the CSZ leadership in handling these and perhaps other issues as well. We hope that this sort of informal forum can be enjoyable as well.

For more information, contact our Vice President, Don Albert, at 826-0785.

Donation to Ethiopian Relief

In response to an appeal to the Jewish community for donations to help the victims of the famine in Ethiopia, Sha'ar Zahav sent a donation in December of \$650 to the Jewish Community Relations Council in SF. This donation represents the combined total of the \$180 allocation from our general fund approved by the Va'ad in November, the pushke from services on December 14 and other donations received for this effort. Our thanks to all for their generous contributions.

As pleased as we are in being able to make this contribution, the need in Ethiopia and many other parts of Africa continues to be enormous. Any additional contributions may be sent directly to the JCRC, % the Jewish Community Federation, 121 Steuart Street, San Francisco 94105.

Education Committee

Richard Beatty Lecture

Mark your calendars now. Tuesday, January 29 is an important date to hold free. The inaugural lecture in our new lecture series will be presented that evening as Guest Lecturer Richard Beatty speaks to us on "The Homosexual Experience during the Holocaust." Mr. Beatty is considered a leading authority on this subject and will be sharing some of the findings of his research with us that evening. The lecture will begin at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception with refreshments will follow.

Book Circle Registration Open

The second event in CSZ's new educational program is scheduled to begin in February. A Book Circle is being formed to discuss Jewish literature. The first meeting is scheduled for February 5 at 7:30 p.m. and will continue every other Tuesday for 12 weeks. The Circle will be facilitated by Jonathan Schwarz of the Jewish Community Library, who will be choosing the specific books covered, with the group's input. Registration is limited to 12 people on a first-come basis and costs \$15 plus photocopy costs. Advance registration is required and must be received by Friday, January 25. For information on registration, please call Marilyn Hertzberg at the office.

Additional lectures and programs are being planned for the upcoming months. If you are interested, the Education Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, January 23 at 7 p.m. in the synagogue. Anyone interested is welcome. We urge your input into this vital function of our congregation.

—Kathi Isserman, Chair
Education Committee

Save this date

Saturday, March 9

**MEGILLAH
MADNESS III**

The Very Best Event of the
Spring '85 Social Season

Celebrate PURIM with costumes, games, hamantashen bake-off, contests, food, drink, dancing and a rowdy good time.

President's Column



*The President is on vacation.
The next President's Column
will appear in February.*

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Stephanie Hannaford, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keefe and Leila Raim (editorial and production); Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Berkeley Hillel Discusses Homosexuality

On Friday, February 8, at 8:30 p.m., Berkeley Hillel will hold a presentation and discussion on "New Perspectives on Homosexuality in Judaism." Representatives of the various movements within Judaism will discuss the responses to Lesbians and Gays in those movements. In addition, Gays and Lesbians will speak on how the emerging awareness of their homosexuality was affected by their Jewish upbringing and how they were able to integrate Judaism into their lifestyle.

Berkeley Hillel is located at 2736 Bancroft Way in Berkeley. The program follows Hillel's Shabbat services which begin at 6:30 p.m., with an Oneg at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call 845-7793.

Jewish Feminism Course

Lehrhaus Judaica, a Jewish adult school, will be offering a course in the Spring semester entitled "The Challenge of Jewish Feminism: America and Israel." This series of lectures will begin with a historical overview and will explore such topics as the response to the women's movement by Jewish organizations, the question of separate Jewish women's institutions, the role of Jewish women in the work force and the issue of power and politics in light of recent elections.

The course begins on Monday, February 11, and will run for eight successive Mondays (except February 18) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Hillel, 2736 Bancroft Way in Berkeley. Tuition is \$30. For more information, call 845-6420.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Steve Elman, in honor of Bob Mackey's Bar Mitzvah

Peter Bailey, in honor of Bob Mackey's Bar Mitzvah

S.R. Kalt

Marilyn Shatzen

For the AIDS Fund —

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Allyce's Grandmother, Dina Raven

Allen Yanofsky, in memory of Stuart Lit

For the Building Fund —

Theresa Canepa and Martin Brown, in honor of the beauty that Jonathan Funk, Eric Keitel and Harvey Bartnof brought to their wedding with their singing

Walt Leiss, in memory of Sol Judson and Jerome Lederman

For the Torah Fund —

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of Nanci and Leslie's anniversary

Gift to the Building —

Microwave oven, from **Betty Kalis**, in memory of her aunt, Rose Jacobstein

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The Ladder of Tzedakah

This time of year, we hear a lot about giving, about charity, about sharing what we have with those who are needy. Of course for Jews, as well as many others, there is no season for charity, it is a constant part of our lives. However, I must admit that it was "The Holidays" and their accompanying media blitz that got me to think about the concept of charity, and to look up Moses Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah.

The Hebrew word "tzedakah" is commonly translated in English as "charity", but its literal meaning is "righteousness", and the concept is an integral part of Jewish life. The High Holiday liturgy states that three things "avert the severe decree" (or, as some of us prefer, bring us closer to God) and that they are t'filah (prayer), t'shuvah (repentance) and tzedakah. The great twelfth century Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides created a "ladder of tzedakah" with eight steps, or degrees. The first step is to give grudgingly, "with the hand, but not with the heart"; the second is to give willingly, but not sufficiently. The third is to give willingly and sufficiently, but not until asked. The fourth is to give willingly, sufficiently, and even unsolicited, but directly, thus shaming the recipient. The fifth step is when the donor is known to the recipient, but not the other way around, and the sixth is when the recipient is known to the donor, but not the other way around. The seventh level is completely anonymous charity—when neither the donor nor the recipient know each other. And the eighth step has nothing to do with money at all. The apex of the ladder of tzedakah is to teach someone a skill or trade, or give them a job, or set them up in business, so that they can earn their own way and have no further need of charity.

Nowadays, with foundations, emergency funds and agencies soliciting us, it isn't as difficult as it once was to fulfill the seventh step, and be an anonymous donor. I don't think Maimonides envisioned a world where you can hear about famine in Africa, a fire in Mexico and an explosion in India on the same news program, and write checks to the appropriate relief agencies during the commercial. The eighth step, though, is more rarely fulfilled. Several weeks ago, I read a "neediest cases" article in the *Sunday Chronicle/Examiner*, which interviewed four women, all of whom, for very different reasons, were in

desperate straits. A follow-up article two weeks later indicated that there had been a tremendous response. All of the women had received donations of food, clothing and money and, in one case, a rent-free apartment. But no one offered what all the women indicated that they really wanted—jobs, so that they could support themselves and their families without help.

The world has changed since Maimonides composed the ladder of tzedakah, but his understanding of human nature has held up quite well. It is meritorious—and difficult—to give a handsome donation and resist taking the credit for it. It is still more meritorious—and even harder—to become involved with another person, perhaps a person with problems and disadvantages, and help them to become self-sufficient. Of course, sometimes a donation of money is what's really most appropriate or most necessary, but sometimes we give money because we don't want to get ourselves involved; because we then put ourselves at risk of failing, or being hurt, or saddened, or rebuffed. Giving of ourselves may get us thinking about things we fear ourselves: old age, illness, destitution. It also may get us past fears, over depression, and make us know that we have really done something to help. It may not fit the strict semantic definition of "charity", but it's certainly tzedakah.

—Leslie Bergson, Chair
Ritual Committee

Creative Geniuses Wanted

Are you a budding writer, actor, singer, director, producer or party planner? If you are, now is the time to step forward. You can help create this year's wild and zany Purim pageant and carnival: Megillah Madness III. Both play and party will undoubtedly be the event of the Spring '85 season, so join in the fun right from the start. The more involved, the merrier a time we'll have.

Our first planning meeting is Thursday evening, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue. All talented persons should be there or call me at 282-6377.

—Judah Katz, Coordinator
Social Activities

Social Action

Chanukah Donation to Shanti

In honor of Chanukah, the Va'ad voted at the December Va'ad meeting to make a \$500 donation from our AIDS Fund to the Shanti Project's Home Residence Program. We are grateful that we have not had much cause to call upon our AIDS Fund for members in need. This Chanukah donation allows Sha'ar Zahav to help support this program which provides an invaluable service to many AIDS patients.

Weekly Food Deliveries

Thanks to all who are making our AIDS Food Drive such a success. Almost every week, Allan Berenstein has been able to make a sizeable delivery to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for use in their residence program. Our donations are very much appreciated and needed, so let's keep up the good work. When you come to services on Friday evening, plan on bringing some canned or dry foods, or some household items or toiletries to leave in the collection baskets in the Oneg Room. The Foundation is not able to receive clothing, however. Any donations of clothing could be made to the Community Thrift Store on 625 Valencia, where the proceeds can be earmarked for any of a number of AIDS support groups or for the Congregation.

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided. The dates for the next two months are:

Wednesday, January 9, 11:30 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, February 13, 11:30 a.m. to noon

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

Va'ad Report

The December Va'ad meeting was held on December 10. In her President's Report, Leila reviewed the plans for the upcoming Shabbaton on January 26 which will be open to the congregation at large and will address issues such as member/non-member distinctions, voting privileges and categories of membership and long range plans for renovations on the building. Leila was also pleased to announce that Jonathan Funk will be chairing this year's Election Committee. In her Administrator's report, Marilyn reminded all those working on committees to keep her informed so that she can efficiently coordinate the calendar and use of the building.

Mike Rankin reviewed his activity as our liaison with the UAHC and presented the agenda for the upcoming Northern California Biennial to be held in San Mateo the weekend of February 22-24. The Va'ad also began discussing preliminary plans for the 1985 Advance and received a proposal from the Commemorations Committee for the administration of gifts and commemorations which will be voted on at the January Va'ad meeting.

Committee Reports

David Gellman reported on the Building Committee's plans to replace the locks at the shul and gave a report on the status of the plans for the renovation of the upstairs of the building. The Va'ad voted unanimously to approve three recommendations from the Finance Committee concerning (1) allocation of \$800 for outside bookkeeping services; (2) allocation of

(Continued on page 5)

Remember

to keep us up to date.
If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of November, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

November 2 — Allan Berenstein, for the Congregation.

Flowers from David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Bob Mackey's Bar Mitzvah.

November 3 — Florence Mackey, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Bob Mackey.

November 9 — Jerry Nodiff, in honor of his friends at CSZ.

November 16 — Nanci Stern and Leslie Bergson in honor of their 1st Anniversary.

November 23 — Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman, in memory of Betty's mother, Esther. Flowers provided as well.

November 30 — Bob Goldware, in honor of the visit of his sister and brother and their spouses.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

High Holy Day Contributions

In addition to the contributions previously published, we received High Holy Day contributions from the following persons:

Susan Greenwald
Beth Schenker
Sue Kaplan
Susan Amdur
Lawrence Bryer
Mike Abramson
Shari Kravitz
Allan Falk
Jay Feinstein
Noah Schreier
Kristy Venstrom
Joan Breves
Elliott Schneck
Daniel Ostrow
Judith Rivin
Mary Clawson
Gary Linsky

Our thanks to all those who gave to Sha'ar Zahav in appreciation of our High Holy Day services, and our apologies to any contributor whose name we have inadvertently omitted.

Support A Fund — Any Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund is used to underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund is used for mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund is earmarked to cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund is used to make contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support

to — for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry, National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund is for the development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund is for the assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund is used to underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Torah Fund is for the purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored receives a card announcing the gift as well. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		8 Teveth 1	9 2	10 3 Finance Comm. 5:15pm 111 Caselli	11 4	12 5
13 6	14 7 Torah Study 7-10pm	15 8 Women's Havurah 7:30pm, 73 Fountain	16 9 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	17 10 Purim Meeting 7:30pm Newsletter Deadline Building Comm. 6:30 2nd floor	18 11	19 12
20 13 New Members Social 3-5pm 345 Church	21 14 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm	22 15 Brotherhood Game Night 7:30pm	23 16	24 17 Newsletter Comm. Alex, 431-7541	25 18 Women's Havurah Dinner 6pm	26 19
27 20	28 21 Torah Study 7-10pm	29 22	1 Shevat 23 Rosh Chodesh Education Comm. 7pm	2 24	3 25	4 26 Morning Service 10:30am Shabbaton noon-4pm
5 27	6 28 Torah Study 7-10pm	7 29 Lecture: R. Beatty 8pm East Bay Lunch Group, Lenny 451-1850	8 30	9 31 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl. 2 Newsletter Mailing 431-7541		

Ritual Calendar

Friday, January 4

Parshah: Va-Y'hi, Gen. 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12
 Leslie Bergson and Cheryl Orvis,
 Services

Friday, January 11

Parshah: Sh'mot, Ex. 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13,
 29:22-23
 Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday, January 18

Parshah: Va-Era, Ex. 6:2-9:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
 Garry Koenigsberg and Susan Unger,
 Services

Friday, January 25

Parshah: Bo, Ex. 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
 Steve Greenberg, Services

Saturday, January 26

Saturday Morning Service, 10:30 am
 Daniel Chesir, Services

February Preview

Friday, February 1

Shabbat Shira
Parshah: Be-Shellach, Ex. 13:17-
 17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31
 Terry Rothchild, Services
The Torah and Haftarah will be read.

Friday, February 8

Parshah: Yitro, Ex. 18:1-20:23
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5
 Garry Koenigsberg, Services
The Torah will be read.

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the
 sanctuary of our synagogue, located at
 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Va'ad Report

(Continued from page 4)

\$1500 to purchase a new dry copier for the synagogue; and (3) allocation of a gift of \$500 from the Phooey on AIDS Fund to the Shanti Project Residence Care Centers as a holiday gift. The Va'ad also voted to approve the Education Committee's request for \$250 to be paid to a facilitator for their proposed Book Circle. Judah Katz reviewed plans for the Chanukah celebration, for Purim and also Gay Freedom Day. Allan Berenstein presented four new members to be voted into our congregational family and reviewed plans for the upcoming New Members Weekend, January 11-13.

A friendly reminder from your friendly recorder: Any and all interested members of the congregation are welcome to attend Va'ad meetings to listen and offer their feedback on what's being planned for the congregation by the Va'ad. It's one way to speak out and be heard!

—Mark Mendelow, Recorder

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

My lover is Christian, and wants me to come to church with him on Christmas Eve. (He's Russian, so he doesn't celebrate Christmas until January 7.) He says this is only fair, as he came to Kol Nidrei services with me. Wouldn't this be a terrible sin?

Bothered in Berkeley

Dear Bothered,

To you, Aunt Yente gives the silver matzoh ball. Of all the questions she has been asked, this one is the most likely to get her into hot chicken soup. You think she likes getting in trouble?—never mind, you shouldn't answer that. The short answer is, for this, you can go; but you shouldn't get too many ideas. (For some people Aunt Yente knows, of course, too many ideas is not a problem.)

You have asked a very complicated question. So for the long answer, Aunt Yente will begin with the orthodox answer, which, as usual, is the easiest to report. By the traditional orthodox sources, not only shouldn't you even get near to a non-Jewish house of worship, but even speaking of their customs or teachings with respect is not permitted. You may also be interested to know that it is also forbidden to say how good-looking a non-Jewish person is, but this law is not violated by praising God for making so beautiful a creature. Aunt Yente is not sure how well this will work as an opening line, but she will try it out at the Baybrick and let you know.

Many Eastern European Jews, like Aunt Yente's mama, obeyed this law with a vengeance. How could a Jew trust a Christian? If to be Jewish was good, so, to be a Christian was bad. Going to church you couldn't even imagine. It was somewhere between eating a ham sandwich on Yom Kippur and eating a ham-and-cheese sandwich on Yom Kippur.

To be fair to Aunt Yente's mother (who did, after all, make very good kasha knishes), and others of her generation, some of the responsibility for this attitude must rest on several hundred years of activities in Eastern Europe by people calling themselves Christians. Also, even the most rigid traditionalists (Aunt Yente is thinking of Rabbi Ganzfried, whom she never liked, even when they didn't dance together at Cousin Shmuel's wedding), acknowledged "it is appropriate to help their poor, to visit their sick, to bury their dead, and to comfort their mourners."

Whether you're orthodox or reform, human beings after all are human beings.

Reform Judaism has much less of this what you would call in Yiddish "paranoia." Early reform temples borrowed many of the trappings of Christian worship—not only organs and choirs, which are not particularly out of step with Jewish traditions, but things like Sunday Shabbat services, and vespers! While that pendulum has swung back, many reform Jews see Christians serving the same God we do, but in a different way. So there should be no problem with going to a Christian service at any time, yes?

No. Aunt Yente thinks you should go to the Christmas Eve service with your lover. How could it be wrong to show your affection and your respect for the person you love? Also, so you can show your respect, Aunt Yente will give you her permission to go to ecumenical services and the like. But then, she will stop. If you are Jewish and go to Christian services to worship, or to enjoy the music or the ritual, you go without your Aunt Yente's blessing. (Don't leave home without it.)

Because even with tolerance and good will and much mutual respect, it must be said that Christianity and Judaism are not the same religion. (See? You learn something new from each month's column. But do they ever give Aunt Yente a raise?) The idea that a particular person should be God does not fit with the spirit of the Sh'ma. The story of the crucifixion is like the story of the binding of Isaac, but with different endings! And then, of course, there is always the difference between wholesale and retail. (Oy! Aunt Yente says an ashamnu.)

You will please not get the impression Aunt Yente thinks one religion is better than another. The torah tells us over and over that "better" in religion has less to do with the stories you tell or the services you hold, and more to do with the acts you do. Mr. Falwell and Mr. Kahane, in Aunt Yente's humble opinion, share the same religion. So would Raoul Wallenberg and Channa Senesh (and maybe even your Aunt Yente).

But on the other hand, it is for some reason important for us as Jews not only to do good things, but also to make it clear that we do them as Jews. Our devotion to our religion, by our ritual as well as by how we act, is supposed to be a sign to the whole world—not that our religion is the only

right one, but that we believe in a particular trust and are willing to be faithful to it. Because of that, it is important for Jews not to adopt the customs of another religion, particularly when the other religion is the one everyone is assumed to belong to. (Aunt Yente's gay readers will know best of all how damaging such an assumption can be.) Part of being a Jew, Aunt Yente believes, is keeping yourself from slipping into Christian customs, like Christmas trees or going to hear mass in a cathedral; not because the customs are wrong, but because slipping into them blurs our identities as Jews, both for ourselves and for other people.

But as Aunt Yente has said already, being a faithful Jew should not have to include cutting yourself off from the religious feelings of your lover. On Christmas Eve, *gei gezunte heit*; just remember, when your lover introduces you to the Reverend Father, you should wish him a *gut yontiff*.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Why do you use so many Yiddishisms in your column? I can barely understand them, and besides, they're demeaning. Can you give me just one of these silly phrases that can't be said in plain English?

Philologist on Philmore

Dear Philologist,

Nu?

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1985 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

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Bylaw Review Committee

The recently reconvened Bylaw Review Committee has an active agenda for the coming year. Our first meeting enabled us to segment out task into three areas: process and policy; data collection and analysis; and presentation. It is our intention to solicit input to all three segments from congregants, Board members, committee chairs and other congregations.

The Committee will be reviewing all items referred back to committee by the Congregation over the last year, as well as examining new ideas and suggestions which are beginning to come in from congregants. But, we need more input; we need your ideas. Our success depends on the volume and quality of expressed congregational needs.

One of the topics being discussed this year is the status of family memberships and voting rights as stated in our Bylaws. Please note that this is one of the topics scheduled for discussion at the Shabbaton on Saturday, January 26 (see article elsewhere in this issue).

If you are interested in this or any other Bylaw issues, plan on attending the Shabbaton or bring any additional ideas you may have about the Bylaws to any of our meetings. Call David Gass during the day at 441-6866 for the time and location of our next meeting, or to discuss your ideas, suggestions and criticisms.

Calendar for 5745

February 1985

Tue 5 Book Circle
Wed 6 Tu B'Shevat
Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting
Fri 22-Sun 24
UAHC No. Cal. Biennial
Dunfey Hotel, San Mateo
Sun 24 JWF Telethon

March 1985

Wed 6 Purim Service
Sat 9 Megillah Madness III
Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting

April 1985

Fri 5 Passover
Sat 6 Congregational Seder
Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
Fri 12 Yom HaShoah Service
Thu 18 Yom HaShoah
Wed 24 Yom HaZikaron
Thu 25 Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 1985

Sun 5 Congregational Meeting
(Tentative date, elections)
Thu 9 Lag Ba'Omer
Mon 13 Va'ad Meeting
Sat 25 Erev Shavuot Service

June 1985

Thu 6-Sun 9
9th Int'l Conference of Gay &
Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.
Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting
Sun 23 Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day
Parade

July 1985

Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
Sun 28 Tisha B'Av

August 1985

Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
Sun 18 Castro Street Fair

September 1985

Mon 16 Rosh Hashanah 5746

Women's Havurah

Shabbos Dinner

The Women's Havurah invites all women members and friends to a Welcoming the Shabbat dinner on Friday, January 18, at 6 p.m. at the Synagogue. Come join us for a vegetarian dinner, get into a "shabbos mood," meet new people, or even get to know your old friends a little better. All this for only \$3.00 (and no one will be turned away for lack of money).

Of course, you should plan to stay for services afterwards, and for a special Oneg, sponsored by the Women's Havurah.

There's only one catch—we need to know how much food to get, so please call Marilyn at the Synagogue office and/or leave a message on the answering machine to let us know that you're coming and how many people you're bringing. We need to order the food by January 9, so please RSVP promptly. We're looking forward to seeing you. For more information, call Betty at 837-8796.

Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114, or pick up at services, every Friday night at 8:15.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in December. A warm welcome to:

Tiela Chalmers and
Melange Matthews
Barry Rosen
Sue Carol Witt

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932



MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Officers:

President, Leila Raim
Vice President, Don Albert
Treasurer, David Stein
Recorder, Mark Mendelow

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
Leslie Bergson
Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ron Lezell
Cheryl Orvis
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Kathi Isserman
Finance, Tom Rothgiesser
Membership, Allan Berenstein
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim
Ritual, Leslie Bergson
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Women's Chavurah, Allyce Kimerling
Coordinator of Social Activities, Judah Katz

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

January Birthdays!

- 1 Lou Greene
- 8 Garry Koenigsberg
- 15 Lyn Alcorn
- 19 Mike Rankin
- 19 Yolande Schneeman
- 21 Stephen Rosenbaum
- 25 Lisa Daniel
- 25 Janis Greenberg
- 26 Michael Barclay
- 26 Marilyn Hertzberg
- 27 Elliott Klein
- 28 John Hughes III
- 30 Aaron Cooper
- 30 Ruth

Belated Birthday Wishes to:

George Lucas (Dec. 8)
David Shaber (Dec. 19)

Classified Ads

POSITION AVAILABLE: For a special person who would like to coordinate distribution of classy newsletter for popular gay/lesbian synagogue. Work with an established, able staff, 1-2 nights a month. On-the-job training available. For more info, call Alex Ingersoll (431-7541) or Bob Goldware (928-3370).

January Yahrzeits

- 5 Isidore Korngold, Grandfather of Chaya Spector
- 7 Dora Stone, Aunt of Bart Benderoff
- 7 (Full Moon) Chris Woodmansee, Friend of Naomi Baran
- 9 (16 Teveth) Seymour Newman, Uncle of Laurie Radovsky
- 13 Morris Gabay, Father of Ed Gabay
- 13 (20 Teveth) Jack Heller, Father of Hal Heller
- 15 Rose Bud Macks, Grandmother of Judy Macks
- 16 (23 Teveth) Moses Kirsch, Grandfather of Melvin Kirsch
- 17 (24 Teveth) Avrum Yakov Berenstein, Grandfather of Allan Berenstein
- 18 (25 Teveth) Mike Brown, Grandfather of Melvin Kirsch
- 19 Ayala Friedman, Mother of Daniel Sonnenfeld
- 20 Sophie Sagorsky, Grandmother of Marc Lipschutz
- 21 Clare Schmidt, Grandmother of Don Albert

- 25 Lev Liberman, Father of Gershon Lieberman
- 26 Sascha Wiedemann, Former Lover of Michael Barclay
- 27 (5 Shevat) Max Rosenstein, Father of Jerry Rosenstein
- 28 Phillip Kalis, Father of Betty Kalis
- 28 Estelle Lieberman, Mother of Deborah Lieberman
- 31 Temple Morris Radovsky, Mother of Laurie Radovsky

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

New Members Social

All CSZ members who joined during the last year will receive a special introduction to learn how our Congregation works. They will have a chance to meet officers, Va'ad members and committee chairs at a New Members Social being held on Sunday afternoon, January 13. All new members should have received, in the mail, an invitation with details. If you did not, please give the office a call.